What is claimed is:

1. A communication-means notification method for use in
a communications system selectively employing communication
means installed in information terminals on a network for
5   users to communicate with one another, the method:

(a)   user-relationally storing communication means operable
        in users' information terminals;

(b)   receiving a destination-user designation from a source
        user requesting communication;

10   (c)   based on information stored in (a), generating a list
        describing communication means operable at both the
        destination user's information terminal and the source
        user's information terminal; and

(d)   reporting the list to the source user before
15   communication begins.

2. A communication-means notification system for use in
a communications system selectively employing communication
means installed in information terminals on a network for
users to communicate with one another, the system
20   comprising:

a first table user-relationally storing communication
means operable in users' information terminals;

an administration means for receiving operable
communication means settings from users and storing the
25   settings in said first table;

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a designation means for receiving destination-user designations from source users requesting communication;

an acquisition means for acquiring from said first table communication means operable at both source users' information terminals and destination users' information terminals;

a generation means for generating a list, based on information acquired by said acquisition means, describing communication means actually usable by both source users and destination users; and

a notification means for reporting the generated list to source users before communication begins.

3. The communication-means notification system set forth in claim 2, further comprising:

a second table for storing relationally to users and predetermined user statuses communication means actually usable in the user statuses; and

a prioritizing means for receiving settings on the actually usable communication means in the predetermined user statuses and storing the settings in said second table; wherein

said first table together stores user status in addition to communication means, and

said administration means receives settings on new user status and writes actually usable communication

means in the new user status into said first table in

accordance with said second table settings.

4. The communication-means notification system set

forth in claim 2, further comprising:

5   a second table for storing relationally to users and

user statuses communication means actually usable in

predetermined user statuses, and priority levels for the

communication means; and

a prioritizing means for receiving settings on the

10 actually usable communication means in the predetermined

user statuses, and the priority level settings for the

actually usable communication means, and storing the

settings in said second table; wherein

said first table together stores communication

15 means priority level and user status in addition to

communication means,

said administration means receives settings on new

user status and writes actually usable communication

means in the new user status, and communication means

20 priority level, into said first table in accordance

with said second table settings,

said acquisition means acquires from said first

table communication means actually usable by both a

source user's information terminal and a destination

user's information terminal and the priority level of

the actually usable communication means, and

said generation means generates said list based on

the priority level of the communication means actually

5   usable by both the source user and the destination

user.

5. The communication-means notification system set

forth in 4, wherein said generation means rearranges

communication means in accordance with source user priority

10   level.

6. The communication-means notification system set

forth in claim 4, wherein said generation means rearranges

communication means in accordance with destination user

priority level.

15   7. The communication-means notification system set

forth in claim 2, wherein said designation means receives

designations using identification information designating

operable communication means at destination users'

information terminals.

20   8. The communication-means notification system set

forth in claim 2, wherein

said designation means is enabled to receive a

destination-user's designation according to identification

information specifying operable communication means at

25   destination users' information terminals; and

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if a communication means corresponding to the
identification information is usable by both a destination
user and a source user, said generation means describes that
communication means at the head of the list.

5   9. The communication-means notification system set
forth in claim 2, wherein said designation means is enabled
to receive a destination user's designation according to
identification information specifying operable communication
means at destination users' information terminals, further
10   comprising

a starting means for starting, if a communication means
corresponding to the identification information is usable by
both a destination user and a source user, communication
according to that communication means.

15   10. The communication-means notification system set
forth in claim 2, wherein said communication means is a game
application wherein a plurality of users can participate on
a network.

11. A computer-readable recording medium whereon is
20   recorded a communication-means notification program for use
in information terminals wherein communication means
selectively employed by users for communicating with one
another is installed, and for use in information terminals
able to communicate with said information terminals; said
25   communication means notification program recorded on the

computer-readable recording medium for executing the

following steps:

A. preparing a first table user-relationally storing

   communication means operable in users' information

   terminals;

B. receiving operable communication means settings from

   users and storing the settings in said first table;

C. receiving destination-user designations from source

   users requesting communication;

D. acquiring from said first table communication means

   operable at both source users' information terminals

   and destination users' information terminals;

E. generating a list, based on information acquired by

   said acquisition means, describing communication

   means actually usable by both source users and

   destination users; and

F. reporting the generated list to source users before

   communication begins.

12. A communication-means notification method for use

in a communications system selectively employing

communication means installed in information terminals on a

network for users to communicate with one another, the

method:

(a) user-relationally storing communication means operable

     in users' information terminals;

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(b) receiving a destination-user designation from a source

user requesting communication;

(c) based on information stored in (a), generating a first

list describing communication means operable at both

5   the destination user's information terminal and the

source user's information terminal;

(d) generating a second list describing communication means

present at either the destination or source user's

information terminal and not at the other, and

10   downloadable to the terminal not having the

communication means present and executable on said

terminal; and

(e) reporting a third list composite of the first list and

the second list to the source user before communication

15   begins.

13. The communication-means notification method set

forth in claim 12, wherein said second list includes a

description of communication means not present on either the

destination nor source user's information terminal, and

20 downloadable to both terminals and executable on both

terminals.

14. The communication-means notification method set

forth in claim 12, wherein:

download conditions for downloading communication means

25 to users' information terminals and execution conditions for

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executing communication means on users' information

terminals are stored in advance for each downloadable

communication means; and

the second list is generated based on terminal

5   information and download conditions and execution conditions

for users' information terminals.

15. The communication-means notification method set

forth in claim 12, wherein:

selection of any of the communication means on the

10   third list is received from the source user and the selected

communication means is reported to the destination user's

information terminal; and

if the destination user's information terminal does not

have the selected communication means, the destination

15   user's information terminal acquires the selected

communication means by downloading.

16. A computer-readable recording medium whereon is

recorded a program for executing the communication-means

notification method set forth in the foregoing claims 12—15.

20   17. A communication-means notification system for use

in a communications system selectively employing

communication means installed in information terminals on a

network for users to communicate with one another, the

system comprising:

a first table user-relationally storing communication

means operable in users' information terminals;

a designation means for receiving destination-user

designations from source users requesting communication;

5   a first generating means for generating a list, based

on information stored in said first table, describing

communication means operable on both destination users'

information terminals and source users' information

terminals;

10   a second generating means for generating a second list

describing communication means present at either a

destination or a source user's information terminal and not

at the other, and downloadable to the terminal not having

the communication means present and executable on said

15   terminal; and

a notification means for reporting a third list

composite of the first list and the second list to the

source user before communication begins.

18. A communication means supply device for use in the

20   communication-means notification system set forth in 17,

including:

a creation means for creating a downloadable-executable

list of communication means downloadable to information

terminals and executable on the information terminals for

25   destination users and source users respectively; and

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a supply means for supplying communication means
included in the downloadable-executable list to user
information terminals.

19. A communication-means notification method for use
in a communications system selectively employing
communication means installed in information terminals on a
network for users to communicate with one another, the
method:

    (a)   user-relationally storing communication means
          operable on users' single or plural information
          terminals and terminal identification information
          for identifying users' information terminals;

    (b)   receiving a destination-user designation from a
          source user requesting communication;

    (c)   based on information stored in (a), generating a
          list describing communication means operable at both
          the destination user's information terminal and the
          source user's information terminal; and

    (d)   wherein a plurality of the same communication
          means is included in said list, adding to said list
          further information for distinguishing the
          information terminals, and reporting said list to
          the source user before communication begins.

20. The communication-means notification method set
forth in 19, wherein:

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a user-set messages with respect to communication means on information terminals are stored together with the communication means and information terminals; and

a destination-user-set message is further included in

5   the list reported to the source user.

21. The communication-means notification method set forth in 19, wherein:

the communication means operable at the same user's single information terminal or plurality of information

10 terminals are grouped by predetermined criteria;

said list is generated based on the grouped communication means; and

the communication means described in said list are grouped by the predetermined criteria, and reported to the

15 source user before communication begins.

22. The communication-means notification method set forth in 21, wherein by-group priority rankings are established for the communication means, and said list is created based on the priority rankings.

20 23. The communication-means notification method set forth in 22, wherein said priority rankings are established based on sequence made by usability within the groups.

24. The communication-means notification method set forth in 22, wherein:

a recommended communication means is established for

each source user in each communication means group; and

said list is generated by modifying the communication

means priority rankings for each source.

5   25. The communication-means notification method set

forth in 21, wherein selection of any group based on said

list is received from the source user, and an attempt is

made to communicate with the destination user's

communication means included in the selected group.

10   26. The communication-means notification method set

forth in 21, wherein:

selection of any group based on said list is received

from the source user;

inquiry is made to the destination user's communication

15   means included in the selected group as to whether it is

receiving or not; and

communication begins with the communication means first

to respond in the destination user's information terminal.

27. A computer-readable recording medium whereon is

20   recorded a program for executing the communication-means

notification methods set forth in any of the foregoing

claims 19-26.

28. A communication-means notification system for use

in a communications system selectively employing

25   communication means installed in information terminals on a

network for users to communicate with one another, the

system comprising:

a first table for user-relationally storing

communication means operable on users' single or plural

5   information terminals and terminal identification

information for identifying users' information terminals;

designation means for receiving a destination-user

designation from a source user requesting communication;

generating means for generating a list based on

10   information stored in said first table, describing

communication means operable at both the destination user's

information terminal and the source user's information

terminal; and

notification means for adding to said list, wherein a

15   plurality of the same communication means is included in

said list, further information for distinguishing the

information terminals, and for reporting said list to the

source user before communication begins.